BIRDS of TEXAS

The "*Back Yard*" Birding Challenge

Get ready to vibe with backyard birding! We've handpicked 12 iconic Texas birds to spot from your own space. Challenge your crew to check 'em off and jot down the date. Let the bird-watching adventure begin!

Northern Mockingbird

Our state bird is mostly grey with a relatively long tail and large white patches on it's wings that you can see when it flies.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Mockingbird/

☐ Date:

Northern Cardinal

The bright red male with it's raised crest and black face is unmistakable. The female is a warm brown color with red highlights and a red bill.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Cardinal/id

☐ Date:

House Finch

The male looks like it has been splashed with red paint on its face and breast, while the female is grey-brown.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/House_Finch/

☐ Date:

Carolina Wren

This small brown bird with a white stripe over it's eye and slightly curved bill is extremely active and usually found near the ground.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Carolina_Wren/

☐ Date:

Carolina Chickadee

This small active bird has a gray back and a black-and-white face that is unmistakable. Groups of 1-6 can be found hopping and flying in trees.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Carolina_Chickadee/

☐ Date:

Black-crested Titmouse

Also known as the Tufted Titmouse, it is mostly grey and white, with a black pointed crest and peach-colored sides.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Black-crested_Titmouse/

☐ Date:

Blue Jay

Our only common blue bird, these members of the crow family are large, loud, gregarious, obnoxious, and beautiful.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Blue_Jay/

☐ Date:

White-winged Dove

A large dove with big white wing patches, visible even when the wings are folded as a white crescent leading-edge.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/White-winged_Dove/

☐ Date:

European Starling

Non-native bird is relatively short and squat-looking, and black or dark brown. It's spring & summer plumage is iridescent and speckled.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/European_Starling/

☐ Date:

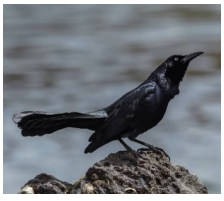
Red-bellied Woodpecker

It's red belly is rarely visible but you can look for the finely barred black-and-white back, gray-tan breast and face, plus bright red back-of-the-neck-and-head.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-bellied_Woodpecker/

☐ Date:

Great-tailed Grackle



Large black bird which are almost ubiquitous in our urban areas. The males are glossy iridescent blue-black.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great-tailed_Grackle/

☐ Date:

House Sparrow

The males are an attractive combination of chestnut-brown, tan, black, grey, and white. The females are tan and brown.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/House_Sparrow/

☐ Date:

All images royalty free.

Contributors: Barry Noret & Mikael Behrens